

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 6, 11 to 13, 17, 19 to 22 and 27 to 31 continue to be under consideration.

The Office Action refers to Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 2, 5, 6 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 2, the language as recited renders the scope unascertainable. Claim 2 recites for the extension (sleeve) and the shaft to be insertable between the handle and the head, but the parent recites for attachments between the parts, it is unclear what is being claimed by "insertable". The "REMARKS" argues method of assembly, which further renders the scope unascertainable.

Claims 5 and 6 recite for devices engaging the head to have a second sleeve attachment device for engaging the first sleeve attachment device and the first shaft attachment device, but the latter devices are recited for the handle, rendering the scope unclear.

With regards to claim 11, the "means" are recited to be the same. When 112 6" paragraph, equivalency doctrine, is invoked, the particular structures are not necessary so long as the function is met. The language as recited renders the claims indefinite

The present amendment changes the language of claims 2, 5, and 11 to obviate the rejection.

The Office Action refers to Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 11 (as best understood) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lampke, US Patent No. 2,808,749.

Lampke discloses all the limitations of the above claims 1, i. e., power wrench comprising a handle containing a motor (e.g., 67); a ratchet extension (41) attached to the handle; a ratchet extension shaft (55) attached to the handle and a ratchet head (1); and the ratchet head (1)

attached to the extension and the shaft, wherein the extension and the shaft are removable; a plurality of removable extension (41, 67, 81) and a plurality of removable shafts (55, 77) each separately removable.

The present claims require separate shaft and sleeve extensions. The claims are specifying the assembly features of ratchet handle, ratchet extension and ratchet head. Lampke fails to show how the shaft is extended.

The Office Action refers to Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over anyone of Lampke, Hendrickson and Frenkel.

Each of the above mentioned prior art meets the limitations of the above claims except for disclosing an extension and a shaft having a length between 6 to thirty inches. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an extension and a corresponding shaft having a length of approximately 6-30", since it has been held that changing shape, dependent on work-piece parameters, involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Stevens, 101 USPQ 284(CCPA1954).*

Applicant respectfully disagrees. None of the references applied teaches a ratchet extension. Applicant urges that there is no teaching in the references regarding an extension to be disengageable from or insertable between a ratchet handle and a ratchet head, there is absolutely no suggestion in the references applied as to the length of such extension.

8. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampke.

Lampke meets all of the limitations of claim 6, except for disclosing a plurality of disclosing the range or a specific size of the extensions, modification within the knowledge of

one of ordinary skill in the art dependent an work-piece/operational parameters as indicated above.

Claim 5 requires a plurality of different length removable ratchet extension sleeves and a plurality of removable ratchet extension shafts, which are clearly outside of the teachingb of the reference Lampke.

As to claim 6 there is clearly no suggestion in Lampke to have ratchet extension shafts and sleeves of different length.

9. Claims 12, 13, 17,19-22 and 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampke in view of Hendrickson.

Lampke meet the limitations of the above claims, except for disclosing an air power wrench. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a pneumatic wrench as taught by Hendrickson, 04:56 in adapting the invention for application requiring pneumatic drive.

Lampke in view of Hendrickson disclose all of the different types of connection between the head and the handle as indicated above.

Claim 19 requires that the ratchet extension shaft is held exclusively by the drive shaft and by the ratchet head drive shaft.

The reference Lampke teaches shortening of a power tool, but not extension of a ratchet.

10. Claims 1 and 11 (as best understood) stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious Frenkel (5,709,136).

Frenkel discloses all of the limitations of claims 1 and 11 (as best understood), including "an area" between the sleeve and the shaft completely filed with air, however. in the alternative

eliminating the bearings, to save manufacturing costs, would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 requires that an area between the ratchet extension shaft and the ratchet extension sleeve is completely filled with air. Frenkel teaches in contrast to have bearings placed between his drive shaft 34 and his adapter housing 28. Frenkel teaches that an important feature is the provision of a drive adapter between the head and a power drive for driving the socket. Thus Frenkel himself says that he has an adapter and not an extension to be placed between ratchet handle and ratchet head.

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

All claims as presently submitted are deemed to be in form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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